

their mode of life, except that at the end of May I found one of the animals, still living, quite loose in its chitinous envelope. This (together with the whole dentary armature of the œsophagus) was completely thrown off; and the animal therefore regularly moulted.—*Zeitschr. für wiss. Zool.* Bd. xxi. p. 385.

*On Priapulus caudatus, Linn.* By Dr. R. VON WILLIMÖES-SUHM.

*Priapulus* was obtained by me more rarely than *Halicryptus*; in fact I only captured six specimens in all, which buried themselves very briskly as soon as I put them into the pan. They worked onward by quickly extending the proboscis and retracting it equally rapidly, usually keeping the caudal appendage close to the body. But their movements soon became slower, and in a few days their muscular power seemed lost; for they lay still for a long time with the caudal appendage extended, and then died. *Priapulus* also will probably pass through its first stages of development at the end of April or the beginning of May; for as early as the middle of June I captured several very small and still quite transparent animals in the towing-net. The smallest of them was 6 millims. in length, and moved just like the adult, which it also perfectly resembled, even to the tail, in its external form. The denticulation of the œsophagus and the divisions of the nutritive canal were distinctly recognizable. Near the anus the sexual glands opened; and on them the same appendicular gland was perceptible that I observed in *Halicryptus*.

In *Priapulus* the caudal appendage, as is well known, is a continuation of the body-cavity, in which, as in the latter, the cells of the body-fluids circulate freely. At the external end there is a pore, through which perhaps water is received into the body. The appendage, which, like the covering of the body, possesses a longitudinal and transverse musculature, was, in one young animal, constricted only in three places. Those "points" of the subcuticle which Ehlers\* has described project into the chitinous membrane in much greater numbers than in the true body of the animal. These points also exist in abundance on the papillæ which, in the adult *Priapulus*, cover the whole appendage like berries. In our young animal these papillæ only exist at the upper part, and in small number; below they are entirely wanting. The young animal is thus distinguished from the adult.

According to an oral communication from Dr. Lütken, of Copenhagen, I may mention the Øresund as a habitat of *Priapulus*, as it is found, although not abundantly, near Helleback.—*Zeitschr. für wiss. Zool.* Bd. xxi. p. 386.

\* Ueber die Gattung *Priapulus*, p. 21.